

### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 4, please replace the first full paragraph, located at lines 4-8, with the following text:

In this way, the system is able to provide the customer service representative a framework for ~~decided~~ deciding whether to overturn the original decline using information other than what is being provided to the customer service representative by the customer. Consequently, the system is better able to provide an objective criteria for ~~decided~~ deciding whether to overturn an original decline.

On page 5, please replace the paragraph located at lines 16-29 with the following text:

Reference will now be made to the drawings wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout. FIGURE 1 illustrates block diagram of a typical financial transaction involving a check. A check writer 100 writes a check 102 to a service/merchant 106 (referred to as merchant ~~or hereinafter~~) in exchange for a vendible service/merchandise 104 (referred to as merchandise or vendible hereinafter). The check 102 may be accepted and deposited into a merchant's bank 112 without receiving any external authorization as indicated by path 120. Such a check 102 goes through a clearing process that is well known, wherein the merchant's bank 112 sends the check 102 to a federal clearing house 114 as indicated by path 122. The federal clearing house 114, in turn, sends the check 102 to the check issuing bank 116 as indicated by path 124. If the check 102 is considered to be valid, the check "clears" and the check's amount is debited from the checking account in the check writer's bank 116 and is then transferred to the merchant's bank 112, as indicated by path 126 to complete the transaction successfully.

On page 8, please replace the paragraph located at lines 13-29 with the following text:

As is understood, a very large number of scoring models 208 may be used by the risk engine 206 to evaluate the risk of any particular transaction being conducted at any particular point of sale device 202. In particular, the various functional types of scoring model types or

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models may be implemented as a neural network, a scorecard function, or any number of other possible implementations. In one embodiment of the invention, the risk engine 206 accesses approximately 1600 different scoring models where approximately 400 are neural network types and approximately 1200 are scorecard types. The risk scoring models then return a numeric risk value which is then used by the risk engine 206 to decide whether to approve or decline a particular transaction. The score and other information can then be stored in a database 210 for subsequent risk evaluation and overturn evaluations. The risk assessment can be performed in any of a number of known manners such as those disclosed in assignee's co-pending patent applications entitled SYSTEMS AND METHOD FOR SELECTIVE USE OF DATABASES TO PREDICT FINANCIAL RISK (U.S. Patent Application No. 10/041,955, filed January 7, 2002 Attorney Docket No. 1DATA.044A) and SYSTEMS AND METHOD FOR SELECTIVE USE OF RISK MODELS MODELS TO PREDICT FINANCIAL RISK (U.S. Patent Application No. 10/041,765, filed January 7, 2002 Attorney Docket No. 1DATA.045A) which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.